

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/879
3 February 1989

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 20 JANUARY 1989 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE
ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS
ON DISARMAMENT ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS
FORTY-THIRD SESSION

I have the honour to transmit herewith the texts of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, which entrust specific responsibilities to the Conference on Disarmament in 1989. The relevant provisions of those resolutions are reproduced in the Annex.

For the information of the Conference, you will also find attached the texts of other resolutions and of two decisions, dealing with or related to disarmament matters, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

(Signed) Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

ANNEX

I. Resolutions dealing with disarmament matters

(A) Resolutions that entrust specific responsibilities to the Conference on Disarmament

At its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions entrusting specific responsibilities to the Conference on Disarmament:

- 43/63 A "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions"
- 43/64 "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty"
- 43/68 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements on the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons"
- 43/69 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons"
- 43/70 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space"
- 43/72 "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons"
- 43/74 A "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to support the conclusion of a chemical weapons Convention"
- 43/74 C "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons"
- 43/75 C "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons"
- 43/75 J "Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons"
- 43/75 K "Prohibition of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes"
- 43/75 Q "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes for hostile purposes"
- 43/75 T "Dumping of radioactive wastes"
- 43/76 E "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons"
- 43/78 B "Non-use of nuclear weapons and prevention of nuclear war"
- 43/78 E "Cessation of the nuclear-arms race and nuclear disarmament"
- 43/78 F "Prevention of nuclear war"

43/78 I "Report of the Conference on Disarmament"

43/78 M "Report of the Conference on Disarmament"

The Conference's attention should be drawn, in particular, to the following provisions contained in those resolutions:

(1) In resolution 43/63 A, operative paragraph 5 appeals to all States members of the Conference on Disarmament to promote the establishment by the Conference at the beginning of its 1989 session of an ad hoc committee with the objective of carrying out the multilateral negotiation of a treaty on the complete cessation of nuclear-test explosions; and operative paragraph 6 recommends to the Conference on Disarmament that such an ad hoc committee should comprise two working groups dealing, respectively, with the following interrelated questions: contents and scope of the treaty, and compliance and verification.

(2) In resolution 43/64, operative paragraph 2 urges that the following actions be taken in order that a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty may be concluded at an early date: (a) The Conference on Disarmament should intensify its consideration of item 1 of its agenda entitled "Nuclear-test ban" and initiate substantive work on all aspects of a nuclear-test-ban treaty at the beginning of its 1989 session; (b) States members of the Conference on Disarmament, in particular the nuclear-weapon States, and all other States should co-operate in order to facilitate and promote such work; (c) The nuclear-weapon States, especially those that possess the most important nuclear arsenals, should agree promptly to appropriate verifiable and militarily significant interim measures, with a view to realizing a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty; (d) Those nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so should adhere to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under Water; operative paragraph 3 also urges the Conference on Disarmament: (a) To take immediate steps for the establishment, with the widest possible participation, of an international seismic monitoring network with a view to the further development of its potential to monitor and verify compliance with a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty; (b) In this context, to take into account the progress achieved by the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific Experts to Consider International Co-operative Measures to Detect and Identify Seismic Events, including work on the routine exchange and use of wave-form data, and other relevant initiatives or experiments by individual States and groups of States; (c) To initiate detailed investigation of other measures to monitor and verify compliance with such a treaty, including an international network to monitor atmospheric radioactivity; and operative paragraph 4 calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on progress made.

(3) In resolution 43/68, operative paragraph 2 recommends that the Conference on Disarmament pursue intensive negotiations in its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons at the beginning of its 1989 session, with a view to reaching such an agreement, taking into account the widespread support in the Conference for the conclusion of an international convention.

(4) In resolution 43/69, operative paragraph 2 notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out; operative paragraph 4 recommends that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including in particular those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties; and operative paragraph 5 recommends that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective.

(5) In resolution 43/70, operative paragraph 5 reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects; operative paragraph 6 requests the Conference on Disarmament to consider as a matter of priority the question of preventing an arms race in outer space; operative paragraph 7 also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects, taking into account all relevant proposals and initiatives, including those presented in the Ad Hoc Committee on the prevention of an arms race in outer space at the 1988 session of the Conference and at the forty-third session of the General Assembly; operative paragraph 8 further requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish an ad hoc committee with an adequate mandate at the beginning of its 1989 session, with a view to undertaking negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects; operative paragraph 9 urges the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to pursue intensively their bilateral negotiations in a constructive spirit aimed at reaching early agreement for preventing an arms race in outer space, and to advise the Conference on Disarmament periodically of the progress of their bilateral sessions so as to facilitate its work; and operative paragraph 12 requests the Conference on Disarmament to report on its consideration of this subject to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

(6) In resolution 43/72, operative paragraph 2 requests the Conference on Disarmament, in the light of its existing priorities, to keep under review, with expert assistance, as appropriate, the questions of the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on the identified types of such weapons; and operative paragraph 5 requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on the results achieved to the General Assembly for consideration at its forty-fourth session.

(7) In resolution 43/74 A, operative paragraph 3 urges the Conference on Disarmament to pursue as a matter of continuing urgency its negotiations on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons and on their destruction.

(8) In resolution 43/74 C, operative paragraph 1 takes note with satisfaction of the Conference on Disarmament during its 1988 session regarding the prohibition of chemical weapons, and in particular appreciates the progress in the work of its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons on that question and the tangible results recorded in its report; operative paragraph 3 urges again the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of high priority, to intensify, during its 1989 session, the negotiations on a convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction and to reinforce further its efforts by, inter alia, increasing the time during the year that it devotes to such negotiations, taking into account all existing proposals and future initiatives, with a view to the final elaboration of a convention at the earliest possible date, and to re-establish its Ad Hoc Committee on Chemical Weapons for this purpose with the mandate to be agreed upon by the Conference on Disarmament at the beginning of its 1989 session; and operative paragraph 4 requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the results of its negotiations.

(9) In resolution 43/75 C, operative paragraph 2 recognizes that the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons in 1988 made a further contribution to the clarification and better understanding of different approaches that continue to exist with regard to both of the important subjects under consideration; operative paragraph 3 takes note of the recommendation of the Conference on Disarmament that the Ad Hoc Committee on Radiological Weapons should be re-established at the beginning of its 1989 session; and operative paragraph 4 requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue its negotiations on the subject with a view to a prompt conclusion of its work, taking into account all proposals presented to the Conference to this end and drawing upon the annexes to its report as a basis of its future work, the result of which should be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

(10) In resolution 43/75 J, operative paragraph 2 requests once again the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further its efforts to reach, as early as possible, an agreement prohibiting armed attacks against nuclear facilities.

(11) In resolution 43/75 K, the operative paragraph requests the Conference on Disarmament, at an appropriate stage of its work on the item entitled "Nuclear weapons in all aspects", to pursue its consideration of the question of adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices and to keep the General Assembly informed of the progress of that consideration.

(12) In resolution 43/75 Q, operative paragraph 3 requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiation for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the deliberate employment of nuclear wastes to cause destruction, damage or injury by means of radiation produced by the decay of such material; and operative paragraph 5 further requests the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session the developments on the ongoing negotiations on this subject.

(13) In resolution 43/75 T, operative paragraph 4 requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiation for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the dumping of radioactive wastes in the territory of other States; and operative paragraph 6 also requests the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session the developments on the ongoing negotiations on this subject.

(14) In resolution 43/76 E, operative paragraph 1 reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, as a matter of priority, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution; and operative paragraph 2 also requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the results of those negotiations.

(15) In resolution 43/78 B, operative paragraph 3 requests the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on the item in its agenda concerning prevention of nuclear war and to consider, inter alia, the elaboration of an international instrument of a legally binding character laying down the obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons.

(16) In resolution 43/78 E, operative paragraph 3 again requests the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee at the beginning of its 1989 session to elaborate on paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session and to submit recommendations to the Conference as to how it could best initiate multilateral negotiations of agreements, with adequate measures of verification, in appropriate stages for: (a) Cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems; (b) Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes; (c) Substantial reduction in existing nuclear weapons with a view to their ultimate elimination; and operative paragraph 4 requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on its consideration of this subject.

(17) In resolution 43/78 F, operative paragraph 1 notes with regret that, despite the fact that the Conference on Disarmament has discussed the question of the prevention of nuclear war for several years, it has been unable even to establish a subsidiary body to consider appropriate and practical measures to prevent it; and operative paragraph 3 again requests the Conference on Disarmament to undertake, as a matter of the highest priority, negotiations with a view to achieving agreement on appropriate and practical measures that could be negotiated and adopted individually for the prevention of nuclear war and to establish for that purpose an ad hoc committee on the subject at the beginning of its 1989 session.

(18) In resolution 43/78 I, operative paragraph 1 takes note of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on its 1988 session; operative paragraph 2 reaffirms that the Conference on Disarmament plays a vital role in the field of disarmament for the world community; operative paragraph 3 reaffirms also its support for the efforts of the Conference on Disarmament in

fulfilling its tasks, and calls upon all Conference members and observer States to contribute as effectively as possible to this end; operative paragraph 4 requests the Conference on Disarmament to continue and to intensify its work on the various substantive items on its agenda; and operative paragraph 5 also requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

(19) In resolution 43/78 M, operative paragraph 1 reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community; operative paragraph 2 notes with satisfaction that further progress has been made in the negotiations on the elaboration of a draft convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction, and urges the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further its work with a view to completing negotiations on such a draft convention as soon as possible; operative paragraph 3 calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to intensify its work, to further its mandate more earnestly through substantive negotiations, within the framework of ad hoc Committees as the most appropriate mechanism, and to adopt concrete measures on the specific priority issues of disarmament on its agenda, in accordance with the Programme of Action set forth in Section III of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly; operative paragraph 4 urges the Conference on Disarmament to provide negotiating mandates to ad hoc committees on all agenda items, in keeping with the fundamental role of the Conference as identified in the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session; and operative paragraph 5 requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

In the above-mentioned resolutions 43/70, 43/72, 43/75 C, 43/75 Q and 43/75 T, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all relevant documents. They are the following:

- 43/70 A/43/27, A/43/506 and Corr.1 and Add.1-2, A/43/88-S/19427, A/43/125-S/19478, A/43/276, A/43/283, A/43/741, A/43/667-S/20212, A/43/838, A/43/893-S/20297, A/C.1/43/L.12 and Rev.1, A/C.1/43/L.27, A/C.1/43/L.30, A/C.1/43/L.36.
- 43/72 A/43/27, A/43/125, A/43/370, A/43/667-S/20212, A/43/709, A/43/840, A/C.1/43/L.38 and Rev.1.
- 43/75 C A/43/27, A/43/622, A/C.1/43/L.9, A/C.1/43/L.25.
- 43/75 Q A/43/142, A/43/276, A/C.1/43/L.62 and Rev.1-2, A/C.1/43/L.72 and
and Rev.1.
- 43/75 T

The relevant records of the consideration of the subjects covered by those resolutions transmitting documentation are contained in documents A/43/PV.4 to 31, A/43/PV.73, A/C.1/43/PV.3 to 25 and A/C.1/43/PV.35 and 42.

All those documents and records were distributed during the forty-third session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all members of the Conference on Disarmament.

(B) Other resolutions and decision dealing with disarmament matters

At the forty-third session, the General Assembly also adopted the following resolutions dealing with disarmament matters:

- 43/62 "Implementation of General Assembly resolution 42/25 concerning the signature and ratification of Additional Protocol I of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco)"
- 43/63 B "Cessation of all nuclear-test explosions"
- 43/65 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East"
- 43/66 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia"
- 43/67 "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects"
- 43/71 A "Implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa"
- 43/71 B "Nuclear capability of South Africa"
- 43/73 "Reduction of military budgets"
- 43/74 B "Second Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction"
- 43/75 A "Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations"
- 43/75 B "Relationship between disarmament and development"
- 43/75 D "Conventional disarmament"
- 43/75 E "Nuclear disarmament"
- 43/75 F "Conventional disarmament"
- 43/75 G "Objective information on military matters"
- 43/75 H "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions in the field of disarmament"
- 43/75 I "International arms transfers"
- 43/75 L "Naval armaments and disarmament"
- 43/75 M "Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Employment of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof"

- 43/75 N "Comprehensive United Nations study on nuclear weapons"
- 43/75 O "Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations"
- 43/75 P "Confidence- and security-building measures and conventional disarmament in Europe"
- 43/75 R "Review of the role of the United Nations in the field of disarmament"
- 43/75 S "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale"
- 43/76 A "Disarmament and international security"
- 43/76 B "Nuclear-arms freeze"
- 43/76 C "World Disarmament Campaign"
- 43/76 D "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa"
- 43/76 F "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme"
- 43/76 G "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia"
- 43/76 H "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America"
- 43/77 A "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security"
- 43/77 B "Third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament"
- 43/78 A "Report of the Disarmament Commission"
- 43/78 C "International co-operation for disarmament"
- 43/78 D "Climatic effects of nuclear war, including nuclear winter: report of the Secretary-General"
- 43/78 G "Disarmament Week"
- 43/78 H "Guidelines for confidence-building measures"
- 43/78 J "Economic and social consequences of the armaments race and its extremely harmful effects on world peace and security"
- 43/78 K "Comprehensive programme of disarmament"
- 43/78 L "Consideration of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade"
- 43/79 "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace"

- 43/80 "Israeli nuclear armament"
- 43/81 A "Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament agreements"
- 43/81 B "Study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification"
- 43/82 "Implementation of the conclusions of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and establishment of a preparatory committee for the fourth Review Conference"

In addition, the General Assembly adopted decision 43/422 entitled "Contribution of the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations systems to the cause of arms limitation and disarmament" and decision 43/423 entitled "Liability for the illegal transfer and/or use of prohibited weapons and weapons or substances which cause unnecessary human suffering", which contain procedural provisions on disarmament matters.

II. Resolutions relating to disarmament matters

It should be noted that, at its forty-third session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions which are relating to disarmament matters:

- 43/6 "Observer status for the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in the General Assembly"
- 43/16 "Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency"
- 43/22 "Right of peoples to peace"
- 43/23 "Zone of peace and co-operation of the South Atlantic"
- 43/51 "Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this field"
- 43/55 "Effects of atomic radiation"
- 43/56 "International co-operation in the peaceful uses of outer space"
- 43/59 "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects"
- 43/61 "Science and peace"
- 43/83 "Question of Antarctica"
- 43/84 "Strengthening of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean region"
- 43/85 "Strengthening of regional and international peace and security"

- 43/86 "Need for a result-oriented political dialogue to improve the international situation"
- 43/87 "Tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Preparation of Societies for Life in Peace"
- 43/88 "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security"
- 43/89 "Comprehensive approach to strengthening international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations"
- 43/163 "Peaceful settlement of disputes between States"
- 43/164 "Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind"
- 43/170 "Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization"
- 43/171 "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States"
